with the Bangalore-based Indian institute of Science;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the farmers in Karnataka have already started agitation against Monsanto as reported in the Hindustan times on 21st November, 1998; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) and (b) Indian Institute of Science has entered into a tripartite agreement with the Society for Innovation and Development and M/s. Monsanto Enterprises Pvt. Ltd. on 26.5.1997 for carrying out research in the form of joint project in respect of the following areas:—

— development biology and physiology (plant and animal).

— advanced genomics and molecular markers (plant and animal).

— information technology and gene/ molecule sourcing.

— gene expression and regulation.

— plant transformation and tissue culture.

— protein engineering, structure and function.

— combinatorial chemistry and high throughout screening methods.

— synthetic genes and chemicals.

There is no proposal to develop terminator genes under the agreement.

(c) and (d) Government of Karnataka have reported that a few farmers have started agitation in Karnataka against Monsanto. As per the press reports, the agitators are demanding that Monsanto trial be discontinued as they claim that they were not in the interests of the farmers. The activists of a farmer's outfit indulged in activities like uprooting and burning of Bolgard Cotton in two experimental stations. The permission given by Department of biotechnology is for carrying out trails by Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Company of transgenic BT cotton, and not for terminator seed. The concerned Department are seized of te matter.

Modified crop Insurance Scheme

1250. MISS FRIDA TOPNO
SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:
SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
SHRI S. AGNIRAJ:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a Modified Crop insurance Scheme (MCIS) as a part of Comprehensive Agriculture Plan;

(b) if so, the salient details of the Modified Crop Insurance Scheme (MCIS) and its coverage, risk benefits to the farmers, administrative set up, crop-wise premium, compensation policy and types of crops to be covered under insurance catering to specific regional needs etc;

(c) whether Government will subsidize partly the acturial premium to be paid;

(d) what are the estimated projections of premium collection and number of farmers to be covered with State-wise break-up; and

(e) time schedule for implementation of the revised crop insurance scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) to (e) It is proposed to introduce a Modified Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (MCCIS) from Kharif 1999 season onwards. Some of the following features are proposed to be factored into the proposed MCCIS:—

(i) It will cover loanee as well as non-loanee farmers.

(ii) some more crops in addition to foodgrains, pulses and oilseeds, subject to the availability of the past yield data are proposed to be covered.

(iii) Acturial premium rates are proposed to be charged in respect of some farmers and crops.

Further details of the new scheme are yet to be finalized.

Flood relief to Andhra Pradesh

1251. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an amount of Rs. 200 crore released by Government to Andhra Pradesh as flood relief is only advance plan assistance.

(b) if so, whether Government have received a request from the Andhra Pradesh Government to treat this amount as Central grant to the State; and

(c) if so, whether the request is under consideration of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. the request of the State Government is under consideration.

Supply of Adulterated Milk by DMS

1252. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DMS have been supplying adulterated milk in some of the colonies of the capital;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the quality of milk before distribution in varios areas are invariably checked;

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government of ensure supply fo quality milk by DMS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) The milk is tested for all quality parameters including prescribed under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. These tests are undertaken at the Delhi Milk Scheme Laboratory before despatch for distribution.

(e) To ensure the supply of quality milk, the following steps have been taken:

(i) DMS accepts only best quality milk free from all additives (adulterants and preservatives) from State Dairy Federations and Local Cooperative Societies.

(ii) Milk is processed under the modern processing conditions.

(iii) Milk is packed in food grade polythene pouches by automatic filling machines under hygienic conditions.

(iv) Milk is tested during the processing, filling and storage process at regular intervals of 40 minutes for maintenance of quality standards.

(v) Before despatch, random samples are again drawn from milk vans and checked for quality standards and then only milk is allowed for distribution.

Farmers Service Centres in Gujarat

1253. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have established Farmers Service Centres (FSCs) in various parts of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the district-wise details and objectives thereof;

(c) whether Government have assessed the performance of these FSCs in the State;